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[Inclosure.]

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, July 1, 1899.

SIR: In reply to yours of June 29, which was received to-day, will state that I have seen the agents here of both the Mexican and the Interoceanic railroads and asked them for their cooperation in ascertaining the names and destination of passengers from this place. This they claimed was not within their power, but suggested that for a consideration the conductors would furnish the agent in the City of Mexico with the names of passengers from Vera Cruz to the city. Not being authorized or in a position to offer a compensation for the assistance of the conductors, and placing no reliance on their reports, I have dictated a copy of the inclosed letter to the superintendents of the two railroads. In reference to your memorandum relative to Mr. Body and disinfection, will state that in an interview with him I learned that Pearson & Sons have sent him a superheating steam disinfecting outfit, but it has not yet arrived. Mr. Body has nothing to do with the railroads, but is willing to assist me in any way that he can. From a railroad official I learned that the conductors would not be likely to report any names of passengers except those that had purchased through tickets. Cash fares and deadheads would not be reported for various reasons. For the past two months I have tried to find a passenger for the States via railroad but have not been successful.

I have asked the assistance of the railroad officials, and have spoken to several who I thought contemplated the trip, but always without success. The prevalent opinion seems to be that the quarantine is an American institution of annoyance, established solely for the inconvenience of the Mexican public, and it is their duty to beat it if they can.

The fever report for the past month is as follows: Four hundred and seventy-one cases and 191 deaths. The daily number of cases and deaths fluctuates considerably, but the weekly average shows no indication of a let up in the epidemic. The disease has made its appearance among the shipping, but is at present confined to one Spanish sailing vessel. The result of the communication with the railroad superintendents I will forward you immediately upon receipt.

Respectfully, yours,

SAM'L H. HODGSON,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

*Report on the inspection service in Mexico City.*

MEXICO, MEXICO, July 10, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that our work of identification of passengers and disinfection of suspected baggage goes into formal operation to-day. Up to the present time we have inspected and issued certificates to 43 passengers. In addition to this number, 2 passengers were passed after disinfection of baggage, and 3 passengers are being detained here prior to disinfection of baggage. Express packages from infected points carried by the Interoceanic Express Company will be disinfected here; those carried by Wells Fargo Company will be disinfected by Sanitary Inspector Alexander at El Paso, Tex. I leave to-morrow for San Luis Potosi, and will report on the conditions at that place.

Respectfully, yours,

L. E. COFER,  
*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

*Instructions to acting assistant surgeon at Monterey.*

MONTEREY, MEXICO, July 13, 1899.

SIR: I have this day nominated you as an inspector, United States Marine-Hospital Service, at Monterey, Mexico, subject to the approval of the Supervising Surgeon-General, United States Marine-Hospital Service. Your duties will be as follows:

First. You will endeavor in every way to keep me informed as to the health status of the city of Monterey.

Second. You will keep a list of the names of travelers from Vera Cruz to Tampico, which list will be furnished daily by United States Consul Magill, of Tampico, at the request of United States Vice-Consul-General Carrol, of Monterey.

Third. You will issue certificates to passengers going to the United States when you are absolutely certain that they have not been in a locality where yellow fever exists. When in doubt, disinfect their baggage and arrange their detention so that, if they so desire, they may travel in noninfectible territory, calling on consuls of the United States for certificates to establish their presence in said noninfectible territory.

Fourth. If a case of yellow fever come to Monterey wire the Supervising Surgeon-General, United States Marine-Hospital Service, the Mexican-Texas frontier inspectors, and myself. I will then endeavor to have the general managers of the Mexican International and Mexican National lines forbid their trains stopping at Monterey, and whenever they refuse, you will wire the facts to the border inspectors and there will be a general detention.

Fifth. If the United States consul at Tampico reports a case of yellow fever wire as before and refuse certification to passengers from Tampico, unless they submit to disinfection of baggage.

Sixth. Send me a report once a week giving number of passengers inspected, number of passengers passed with favorable status, number of passengers detained, with baggage disinfected, and number of passengers who have been refused certificates.

Seventh. In disinfecting baggage remove half the contents of the container and loosely arrange the remainder. Saturate a cloth with 50 c.c. of 40 per cent formalin for every 12 cubic feet of trunk space. Close the container lid and close keyhole and crevices with wet paper, then expose in hot sun for one and one-half hours. Follow this by saturating the same cloth with 50 c.c. of water of ammonia. Disinfect the remainder of the baggage in the same manner.

Respectfully, yours,

L. E. COFER,  
*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

*Report from Vera Cruz.*

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, July 6, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the health conditions of this place:

For the week ended July 6 there were 56 new cases and 24 deaths from yellow fever, 5 deaths from pernicious and 5 from remittent fever. This is a considerable improvement over the several preceding weeks, but to-day's record of 12 new cases indicates that the improvement is only spasmodic. One case was brought ashore from the dredge that is at work in the harbor; with that exception, there have been no other cases in the shipping since my last report. The Spanish bark *Dolores Ramon* (previously reported) has had no more sickness aboard since she was fumigated and disinfected. There are few vessels here now, and they use every precaution to prevent contamination. Cordoba, I am informed, is now free from the fever.

Dr. Del Rio, a fever expert, and member of the quarantine board of this port, has been sent to Tehuantepec to ascertain the nature of the fever at that place. In the future I will write, and wire when necessary, any serviceable information to the representative of the Marine-Hospital Service in the City of Mexico, instead of at the border, for